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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward a communiqué issued by the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries at Lisbon on 1 July 1998 in reference to the current situation in Guinea-Bissau. I would be grateful if the present note and its attachment could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Celso L. N. AMORIM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Brazil

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Annex

Communiqué issued by the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries at Lisbon on 3 July 1998

The member States of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries reiterate their serious concern about the current situation in Guinea-Bissau and issue the following declaration.

The member States of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries:

1. Strongly support and associate themselves with the good offices initiative of Portugal and Angola aimed at reaching a negotiated solution to the conflict.

2. Call on the parties to the conflict to respect the ceasefire and to cooperate with Angola and Portugal in their efforts to help reach a negotiated solution to the conflict.

3. Urge all countries and organizations to cooperate with this initiative and to refrain from any action that could lead to greater military internationalization of an already complex situation.

4. Reiterate their position that only a negotiated solution can guarantee a lasting peace and political stability for Guinea-Bissau.

5. Make an appeal to all countries and organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees and call for the cooperation of all parties and military forces involved in the conflict to facilitate the provision and distribution of humanitarian aid.